A SPECIMEN OF PREACHING, AS PRACTISED Amongſt the PEOPLE, called METHODISTS.

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Daniel Whittaker.

MAW
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PREFACE.

I Here preſent the World with a Specimen of the Preaching of ſome of thoſe People called *Methodiſts*; part of which I heard delivered in the latter End of *June* laſt *; by one of their (pretendedly) inſpired Men; and the reſt I received from Perſons of good Senſe and Character.

My Deſign herein is, if poſſible, to expoſe the Abuſe of divine Revelation

* This was written about the Year 1755, by a Gentleman of great Capacity and Uſefulneſs, now deceaſed.

to Public View; and to let the World ſee, what ſort of crude Nonſence the Mob are carried away with; and amongſt them; ſome honeſt well-meaning Perſons, who might have been valuable Members, both in the Church, and the World, had they kept free from this horrid Infatuation.——I do not need to tell Mankind what Multitudes are carried away with this ſtrange exſtatic Deluſion: Neither do I need to inform the more intelligent Kind of Chriſtians, that there is ſome Reaſon to ſuppoſe, that Popery is couched under theſe enthuſiaſtic Reveries, and Pretences to divine Impulſe, ſo common amongſt this Body of Men.——If I may be allowed to give my Opinion; I apprehend, that *Rome* is playing ſome of her old Tricks over again; to diſconcert the *Proteſtant* Intereſt in *Great Britain*, and re-eſtabliſh

bliſh her own Cauſe, now when 'tis almoſt out of Breath.

To the Knowing and the Impartial I appeal, whether the Scheme does not appear throughout the Whole, *Jeſuitical.*

But however, though we have ſuch religious Animoſities of late, I am apt to think, that the Confuſion will fall upon thoſe who have been the Inventors, and are ſtill the Abetters of ſuch a ſordid Cauſe: Truth and Senſe will remain, when all the Stratagems of *Rome* are buried in their own Ruins. And I hope we have many truly wiſe and honeſt Men left amongſt us, both in the Eſtabliſhment and out of it, who will join Hands, againſt ſuch a Torrent of Madneſs, brought amongſt us under the Name of Religion.

I heartily

I heartily wiſh that a good Underſtanding may prevail amongſt all *Proteſtants*, and that their religious and civil Liberties, may be dearer to them than their Lives.

A

Specimen of Preaching, &c.

HEBREWS ii. 3.

How ſhall we eſcape if we neglect ſo great Salvation.

I SHALL firſt of all explain to you, the Metaphors contained in theſe Words.

It is with the utmoſt Sorrow and Concern of Soul, that we can look back, and ſee, that God created the Heavens, and the Earth, the Work of his Hands, in the Space of ſix Days, and all very

good; and the ſeventh Day he appointed a Sabbath to himſelf, to be glorified in the Work that he had done. He made every Thing in his own Likeneſs, and loved every Thing that he had made: But original Sin, which was hatched in Hell, and brought into the World by the Devil, ſoon marr'd all the Work.

——O, O, ſad Thing this!——— Who can hear and not tremble? Who can read and not weep, that all good ſhould be thus marr'd by the Devil? — Ah Devil, Devil, fie upon thee Devil, thou Enemy of all Righteouſneſs; what haſt thou done both to God and Man? What ratling and rambling has thou Devil made, both in Heaven and Earth, as well as in Hell, where thou ſhould be and abide?———Could thou not have kept thee at Home Devil, among thy own Crew of Fiends and Hell-hounds, but thou muſt come here to ruin Man? poor ſilly Man!———But I'll tell thee Devil, thou art not ſo great a Man as thou thought on; God is greater than thee, Chriſt is greater than thee, the Holy Ghoſt is greater than thee; and what ſayeſt thou by that Devil?———

Thou

Thou deſerves,——Oh what is it that thou deſerves?———Thou thinks thou haſt done finely I warrant thee, thou laughs in thy Sleive at what thou haſt done; but have a care Devil, ſomebody will have a Rap at thee e'er long, and make thy very Bones to rattle in thy Skin.

——And the Lord God ſaid unto the Woman, what is this that thou haſt done? And the Woman ſaid, the Serpent beguiled me, and I did eat;—— and the Lord God ſaid unto the Serpent, becauſe thou haſt done this, thou art curſed above all Cattle, and above every Beaſt of the Field, upon thy Belly ſhalt thou go, and Duſt ſhalt thou eat all the Days of thy Life:——I will put Enmity between thee and the Woman, and between thy Seed, and her Seed; it ſhall bruiſe thy Head, and thou ſhalt bruiſe his Heal.——And now Devil, take thee that, and make what thou can on't: — I told thee, I ſay, I told thee Devil, thou would be met with, and paid in thy own Coin.—Alas, alas, what could thou pretend to, what could thou think on? Thou waſt certainly the ſillieſt De-

vil that ever was, ever to blow up thy own Brains with ſuch vain Imaginations, as that thou could conquer God, and Chriſt, and the Holy Spirit.——God has told thee what muſt be thy Lot, and thou may depend upon it, he will be as good as his Word.——Think not that thou can either overcome, or cheat him, as thou haſt done poor ſilly, weak, and feeble Man:——No, no, God will ſtand thee a Bruſh, Chriſt will ſtand thee a Bruſh, and the Holy Spirit will fight thee all the Days of thy Life.

—My dear Friends, is not this good News from Heaven think you? O what would you have done if this News had not been brought you?——You might then have wept, and wailed, and gnaſhed your Teeth; ſought for Reſt, and found none; this Life would have been Hell, and Death would have brought you to the Hell of Hells, from whence you would never have eſcaped, from whence you would never have got out; but you muſt have howled and ſcrieked in that Fire, that never ſhall be quenched; there you might have fryed without Remedy, and the Worm that dieth not,

not, might have gnawed upon your Hearts for ever and ever.

O, thou bleſſed Jeſus, how welcome ſhould thou be to us poor miſerable, wretched, and undone Creatures! How ſweet is that ſaying, "He that believeth "in me ſhall never periſh, but ſhall "have everlaſting Life."——This is the glad Tidings of great Joy, that ſhall be to all People that believe. Mind this I beſeech you,—— "*To* all *People that* "*believe.*"

We have a numberleſs Number of Free-willers, and New-light-men, who will tell you, that you muſt *obey* God's Commands; but let me tell you, you can do nothing of yourſelves, but it is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of his own good Pleaſure. Come to *Chriſt*, cloſe with *Chriſt*, lean upon him, roll upon him, make him your All, and then never fear, but you will be as good as you need to be.—— "Come unto me all ye that Labour, "and are heavy Laden, and I will give "you Reſt."——O moſt excellent Doctrine this! Not like the *Arminian* He-

recy,

recy, or dry Morality, that telleth you, *do* this and live; this is a dangerous Morſel for you to meddle with; touch not, taſte not, handle not; for if you ſet one Foot in this Path, you are in Danger, the greateſt Danger of being damned to all Eternity.——But make yourſelves ſure that you are the Elect, the Choſen of God, a choſen Generation, a royal Prieſthood, and then fear not, but you will come to the Haven of Reſt ſhortly, though you are now toſſing in a Sea of Temptations, that threaten to throw you down to Hell in a Moment.

Conſider, I beſeech you, that it is a fearful Thing to fall into the Hands of the living God; and to be ſure, if you be Graceleſs and Chriſtleſs, without the Power of the Word of God upon your Souls, without the Power of the World to come, this will be your Lot,——this will be your Portion; and what will you do then?——For if the Righteous ſcarcely be ſaved, where ſhall the Ungodly and Sinner appear?——My God, and my *Chriſt* command me to tell this, that all men are by Nature the Children

of

of Wrath, becauſe the Children of Corruption.—my People have eaten ſour Grapes, and the Childrens Teeth, are ſet on Edge; in us that is in our Fleſh there dwells no good Thing. We are all of us vile in God's Eyes; — we ſtink like Muck; God hateth us, God abhorreth us, 'till we are born of God, 'till we are born anew of *Chriſt Jeſus*, and born of the Spirit, being ſealed unto the Day of Redemption.

I ſee, you that know not God, laugh at his Doctrine; but I tell you, Woe unto thoſe that laugh now, for they ſhall mourn and weep.——You ſhall have a double Portion of Damnation, as you ſcorn and deride the great Salvation now, when it's offered unto you.—— You are Legaliſts, you are ſelf-righteous, righteous in your own Eyes, and therefore Publicans, and Harlots, enter into the Kingdom of God before you.

O you that are hardened in your Sins, that are led away with an evil Heart of Unbelief! you are a Generation of Vipers, and cannot eſcape the Damnation of Hell. There remains nothing for you,

you, but a fearful looking for of fiery Indignation, that ſhall devour the Adverſaries of the Lord, ſuch as you are.—O that you were like theſe Lambs of the Lord *Jeſus*, that are near to me!——O that you were ſenſible of your loſt Condition! that you knew the Deceitfulneſs of your Hearts! the Heart is deceitful, and deſperately wicked above all Things, who can know it?——

It is the ſaddeſt Thing in the World to die a threefold Death. To die a ſpiritual Death, to die a natural Death, and to die an eternal Death. There is a ſpiritual Death, there is a natural Death, and there is an eternal Death, ſays the great, the good, and pious Biſhop *Wilkins*.——What ſay you to this you Unbelievers, that deny Original Sin, that deny Juſtification by *Chriſt*'s imputed Righteouſneſs alone?—— I ſay, what ſay you to this?——Biſhop *Wilkins* was a Biſhop of the Church of *England*, when it was a Church indeed, but now it is no Church.——It denies thoſe orthodox and ſound Doctrines of the Homilies and Articles; and thoſe ſound, good, and holy Greeds, the Apoſtles

ſtles Creed, the *Nicene* Creed, and the Creed of St. *Athanaſius*, are good for nothing.—O wicked and rotten Church of *England* now!——How is the Gold become dim, and the fine Gold changed? When will that Time come, when *Chriſt* ſhall be all, and in you all, unleſs you be Reprobates? — My beloved, as God is the *primem Mobile*, as the Aſtrologers call him, ſo look you to him, and then you need fear no Danger, though both Men and Devils be againſt you.

—Some here preſent will go Part of the Way up the Ladder toward Heaven. ——Some one Step,—ſome two,—ſome three,—and ſome will get to the Vertex of the Ladder, and then tumble down to Hell.

Lord *Jeſus*, take unto thee thy great Power and Reign;——ſhake theſe *Arminians*, theſe *Arians*, theſe *Socinians*, theſe *new Light*, *new Scheme Men*, ſhake them Lord, ſhake them, over Hell-fire in a Sack; and if they will not repent of their Unbelief and evil Ways before the Sack be burnt, then Lord let them

fall in, and learn there, that God is true, and every Man a Liar,——But O that the Smoak and Sparks of Hell-fire may awaken them, before the Fire catch hold of them, and burn them to the Death!

What ſayeſt thou, thou Drunkard, thou Swearer, thou Whoremonger, thou Cuckold-maker?——What ſayeſt thou, thou Hunter, thou Bowler, thou Fiſher; thou that playeſt at Cards and Dice, and Fox and Geeſe; thou that Fights and Wreſtles, 'till thou art crippled and wants Crutches;——thou that goeſt to Horſe Races, and ſhouteſt Tantivi with the Croud of Sinners,——all you Sinners by the Lump, that wallow in your Sins, what ſay ye to theſe Truths of God?——Depend upon it, if you continue to fight thus with God, and *Jeſus Chriſt*, you will be banged to your full Satisfaction.

You ſinging, you whiſtling, you fidling *Chriſtians*, all you lilting Lilleborero Gentlemen and Ladies, with your Balls, Maſquerades, and Midnight Aſſemblies;——the Devils in Hell, have kindled a Fire

Fire for you, and you are juſt dropping into everlaſting Burnings: And how will you eſcape if you neglect ſo great Salvation?

I feel myſelf yet ſo full of the Holy Ghoſt,——ſo running over with Power from above, my Soul, my very Soul ſo trembleth within me, that I cannot yet leave you in this Condition.

What muſt be done with, or for this long Liſt, this large Catalogue of Sinners fore-mentioned?——Why, I'll tell you.——*Let them come to* Chriſt, *juſt as they are*,——But then the Legaliſts, the moral Men, the Free-willers will ſay,—"*Chriſt* will have a dirty, ſcandalous "Family of them; and that if ſuch as "theſe muſt be the peculiar, the cho-"ſen People of God, God is not ill to "pleaſe."

But to this I anſwer,——God will give you Repentance unto Life; and *Chriſt* will waſh away your Sins in his Blood, ſo that though they be as Scarlet, you ſhall be whiter than Snow,——and you will be advanced to the heavenly

Glory, when theſe Self-righteous that are juſt in their own Eyes, ſhall be thruſt down to Hell.——O moſt comfortable Meſſage this to you Sinners, if you will but hear it; if you will but receive it, and not harden your Hearts as in the Day of Provocation in the Wilderneſs.——However wicked you may be now, yet you will be made holy enough when you come to *Chriſt*.—You will have no ſwelling Bumpers, no red hot Oaths, or blazing Curſes there.—The greateſt of Sinners that ſtink alive upon the Earth, will all be made ſweet enough with *Chriſt*.——The now Whore and whoo-up Men, like *Nimrod*, that mighty Hunter before the Lord; as well as thoſe that cry out, ſometimes by Sunſhine, and ſometimes by Candle-light, run, run, run, rub, rub, rub, will all change their Notes with pleaſure.—— The poor Fools that run diſh daſh in the Rivers to Hunt, and catch their Prey, there ſhall wade to the Knees in *Chriſt*'s Blood, with exquiſite Raptures of Joy and Pleaſure.——Thoſe that converſe ſo much with Kings and Queens, ſometimes ſhouting over an Ace, or a ſingle Ten;—— that can read heart, pick,——

pick,——Spade and Club, and cry out with an Air, what's Trump, will find other Pleaſure with *Chriſt*, than two Games out of three, and Two-pence in Braſs, over at the Bargain, can give them in this vain World. You that like to rattle the Dice in the Box, ſhall have a more delightful Buſineſs.—Nay, whole Waggon Loads of Men and Women, come to *Chriſt* in their Sin, they will at once change both their Taſte and Employment;—for *Chriſt* can do that for you, that you cannot do for yourſelves; nay, and he will do it too; if you will believe him and dare take his Word; but if you believe not, all your Obedience will not be worth a Half-penny.

This Belief in *Chriſt* is more that the *Legaliſts*, *Arminians*, *Arians*, *Socinians*, and *New-light Men* think on: It is not like Ivy, climbing up the Side of a Tree by the Bark, but thruſt yourſelves into *Chriſt*'s Heart, and he will thruſt himſelf into yours, and then you will be one with him, becauſe you cannot help it.

I would now apply a little, what has been ſaid. O Lord, thou knoweſt what

we

we are, and what we are but.——We are Duſt and Aſhes, Rottenneſs and dead Men's Bones, ſay unto us, O ye dry Bones, ariſe, and hear the Word of the Lord.——We are worthleſs Creatures, and were it not for thy Mercy, we ſhould certainly be conſumed by thy Terrors. But we bleſs thee, that thou haſt delivered us from Death and Hell, and made us as Life, from the Dead.—This is great Salvation, this is Salvation worth calling ſo; we are ready and ripe for Heaven, whenever the Lord calls us hence. O how happy are we, that we are the Heirs of thy everlaſting Kingdom?

I leave thoſe that are Deſpiſers of God and *us* to thee, to lye under thy Wrath and Indignation for ever, and ever.——They huff *Chriſt*, and throw Dirt in the Face of thy holy Spirit. What ſignifies their Morality? What ſignifies their Reaſon? As they have not that Faith which is the Subſtance of Things hoped for, and the Evidence of Things not ſeen.——Now you that are *Chriſt*'s, do not you underſtand this?—If you do not, I am ſure nobody elſe doth;

doth; for to you it is given to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God; but they are Fooliſhneſs, to thoſe who are ſpiritually blind, who are ſenſual and devilish, not having the Spirit. O what ſhall we render to thee, heavenly Father, that thou haſt hid theſe Things from the Wiſe and Prudent, and haſt revealed them unto Babes? Conſider what you have heard, and the Lord give you a Spirit of Underſtanding.

P. S. There immediately followed an Exhortation, founded upon that Portion of Scripture, concerning a certain Man, that went from *Jeruſalem* to *Jerico*, and fell among Thieves.

It is moſt likely, that this Man was going upon ſome honeſt Buſineſs, and had ſome little Money in his Pocket, elſe he would have been no Prey for Thieves, for empty Pockets they chooſe not to meddle with, if they know it; but would rather lay on, where there is ſome Booty for them to get hold of, and make a ranting Bout with. — But however, this honeſt poor Man was but badly off with them, for he was peiled and

and abuſed 'till his Cloaths were pulled from his Back, and his Body ſore hurt. ——And when they had uſed him thus, and taken what he had, they left him in the Dirt and Mire, upon the High-Road.——He was a pitiful Sight, was he not, think you? and worthy of being taken Notice of, by any one that paſſed by? But alas, poor Man! this happened not to be his Lot; for as he was lying there, there came a *Prieſt* to him, and paſſed by, without taking any Notice, or ſhewing him the leaſt Favour.

This was juſt like one of the *Prieſts* of our Time; ſome proud rich Belly-god or other, that cared for no body but himſelf.——He was ſome damned Hireling, that cared for the Fleece, but none for the Flock; and cared not who ſunk or who ſwam, ſo that he ſwam; ——a Thing very common amongſt the vain Men of this World.

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